

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter said that the announcement of hundreds of new jobs created in Western New York by GEICO and FMC is a positive sign for the economy and will generate benefits across the region. Slaughter made her comments after participating in a ribbon cutting at a research and development facility in Tonawanda.

“I am absolutely delighted that Western New Yorkers are getting back to work and pledge to do everything I can to keep them there,” said Slaughter. “GEICO’s growth is an inspiration to the area and its good news coupled with the jobs created at FMC and the increase in production at GM’s Powertrain plant in Tonawanda marks today as a great day for the Western New York economy.”

Slaughter attended the ribbon cutting of a new research and development lab at chemical manufacturer FMC in Tonawanda. Speaking to 50 employees, Slaughter praised the company for the new lab, which will focus on finding new markets for FMC’s existing products to expand manufacturing output. It will immediately create five new jobs.

“It’s always terrific to celebrate local job growth, particularly at a company that I have long worked so hard to support,” said Slaughter. “As you know overseas competitors have been engaging in persistent, long-term dumping in order to gain an unfair competitive advantage and drive this plant out of business. However, when given a level playing field this facility continues to show that it can compete and thrive in a global economy. The work you’re doing today in this beautiful new lab is taking a step in exactly the right direction and I applaud you for it.”

Slaughter has repeatedly helped FMC combat unfair trade practices that hurt the chemical manufacturer. In 2003, she led the charge putting pressure on the Department of Commerce to enforce anti-dumping restrictions on Chinese persulfates that enter the U.S. market. This campaign was successful, and the Commerce Department now imposes adequate dumping duties.

On the same day, Governor Paterson was in Amherst to announce 300 new jobs created at Geico’s Amherst operations center. It was also recently announced that the Chevy Powertrain plant in Tonawanda is hiring back workers and increasing all three product lines through the end of this year. The decision came from an increase in car sales thanks to the federal Cash for Clunkers program.